



Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday, 17th April 2013 at 7.30 p.m. in Bridgerule Village Hall

Present: Chairman: Cllr. K. James
Councillors: Cllrs. J. McDougall, G. Abbott, C. Seymour-Smith, Pat Haydon and J. Giles

In Attendance: Parish Clerk

Members of the Public – See attached attendance list

Cllrs. Abbott and Giles did not arrive until Item 3 of the Agenda was underway.

924. Welcome by the Chairman

Cllr. James welcomed the members of the public and Councillors. He apologised for the absence of Cllrs. Elliott, Davey, Medland and Johnston.

925. Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting Held on 18th April, 2012

Cllr. James proposed that the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 18th April, 2012 be approved. Cllr. Seymour-Smith seconded the proposal which was carried. (Vote 4 for. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions).

926. Chairman's Report

Cllr. James said he had little to report. He said that unlike some villages, Bridgerule is managing to keep some of its services. The School is doing well, and he said we should do everything we can to provide better facilities. The hub of the village remains, with the Pub prospering and the Village Shop and Post Office providing a vital service. The Property Trust housing at Canal Rise has been completed and now occupied. Cllr. James asked if there were any questions.

Cllr. McDougall asked if Pyworthy School is part of the Federation. Cllr. James said it is, but its future is not secure, due to a decrease in children attending. He said that Bridgerule Primary had received a level of 'good with outstanding features' from Ofsted and he hopes that, at some time in the future, a Sports Hall will be provided (by the Council) on part of the playing/football field. It would improve the prosperity of the School in the long term. Unfortunately, possible funding which would have been available from the proposed Solar Farm will not come to fruition, as the Solar Farm is no longer going to happen. However, the Council still hopes to extend the walk along the river and Cllr. James said he has obtained funding to provide fencing along the walk. Unfortunately, there is unlikely to be new footpaths, as local landowners seem reluctant to allow such facilities on their land.

Mr. Hitchings asked if there was a possibility that Bridgerule Village Hall Ltd. could 'tap' into any finances available to the School. Cllr. James said that such funds would be solely for providing aspects of physical education for the School.

927. To Receive A Report from the Following:

District Councillor

Cllr. James reported on TDC's views on Wind Turbines and Solar Farms; that a plan to possibly get businesses interested in supporting (financially) Tidal Energy did not appear to be going well.

Cllr. Abbott arrived at 8.00 p.m.

Cllr. James said that TDC had prepared a draft Local Plan for the next 20 years, Bridgerule Parish Council had commented on this and at the Council Meeting to follow this evening, would be discussing the Plan relating specifically to Bridgerule. Cllr. James informed the Meeting that villages are allowed a

minimum 5% housing growth. Mr. Hutchings asked what the maximum percentage is. Cllr. James said there is no maximum.

Cllr. Giles arrived at 8.05. p.m.

Mr. Dymond queried the subject of sewage. Cllr. James explained SW Water's stance on the capacity of the sewage service to Bridgerule and he felt it is insufficient. Cllr. James asked the PC to write to SW Water highlighting the continuing problems, asking for its views on this or to send a representative to speak at a Council Meeting.

Police Community Support Officer

PCSO Bray had sent her apologies and a Report was not available.

Bridgerule Village Hall Limited

Cllr. Seymour-Smith reported that the Village Hall Committee is now Bridgerule Village Hall Ltd., and has been accepted as a registered charity. This will help access funding and enable more to be obtained from donations due to Gift Aid.

A meeting will be held next month to decide the best way forward regarding work on the roof, following a report concerning weight issues re. the roof and ceiling. Future work will encompass windows, guttering, fascias, etc. Planning permission is being sought and Mr. Hitchings believed this would be available in 8 weeks' time. An application for a Lottery grant will be made this year. An amount of £1,773.75 had been raised from the Johnny Cowling event held recently. Updates on the Hall are available on the website and in The Buzz. Cllr. Seymour-Smith asked for any questions.

Mr. Harris enquired about the number of tables available (he believed some had 'disappeared' and as the Church had a lunch booked in the Hall shortly, this was of concern). A short discussion took place.

Football Club/Playing Field

Cllr. Giles reported that the seat would shortly be installed (provided by the Council after the previous one had been vandalised); drainage is better than it was. Cllr. James said his promised grant had been agreed at TDC.

Neighbourhood Watch

Cllr. McDougall commented that it may or may not be professional criminals stealing heating oil, although likely they do steal quad bikes. At the end of the day criminals need money and its usual someone else's they are after. He highlighted the importance of being able to identify your possessions – make a note of serial numbers, have identification markings put on belongings, etc. Always be on the lookout, sign up for the Community Messaging Service to receive updates on local crimes, Neighbourhood Watch exists to prevent crimes. He advised always to lock your front door if you are in the back of the house, lock windows and doors if going out, don't leave valuables in view in the car, notice if someone different is knocking on doors in your area and don't let strangers into your house. The Police, if notified, will check on unexpected callers, particularly if you have noted a vehicle registration number. Cllr. McDougall gave details of the new Police and Crime Commissioner, Tony Hogg, who would be happy to answer any questions from residents. Correspondence should be sent to the office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, Endeavour House, Woodwater Park, Pynes Hill, Exeter, EX2 5WH or contact mark.tyler@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk

Cllr. James gave the names of co-ordinators in the village, John McDougall, Alex Johnston, Shirley Abbott, Cliff Seymour-Smith, Paul Dymond, Alan Bryant and Mr. Parnell. Mr. Hitchings volunteered as a co-ordinator and will liaise with Cllr. McDougall.

Parochial Church Council

Mr. Harris gave the Rev. Hardwicke's apologies; he reported that Mr. Beadle had taken over, maintaining the Church grounds, from Mr. Williams; a Family Service had been introduced, support for the Church is received from the School, but unfortunately attendance numbers are dwindling. Cllr. James suggested the Church, when requesting a grant from the Council in this financial year, considering asking for an increased amount.

Revel Committee and the Buzz Newsletter

Mrs. Cholwill reported that The Buzz continues to be well received, it has sponsorship from approx. 40 businesses and about 80 residents; 366 copies are distributed. The Buzz donated £1K to the Village Hall. It continues to prosper and she thanked Cllr. Seymour-Smith for producing the newsletter, only charging for stationery, Rose Hitchings for producing the front cover and the volunteers who distribute the publication.

Revel Week will commence on 2nd August; nominees for Carnival Queen are required. Money raised last year had gone to various organisations including the Church, School and Village Hall and she knows the week will be a great success.

Mrs. Cholwill also reported that numbers attending the Methodist Chapel are dwindling and it is possible the Chapel will be forced to shut. Cllr. James felt it is essential to try and stop this from happening.

Primary School

Mrs. Pat Johnston reported that the School had become part of a Federation in September 2011 and had progressed from an Ofsted report of 'given notice to improve' to good. The Acting Head, Mrs. Jo Dymond, had now left, having done excellent work. Mrs. Johnston highlighted the problem of dwindling pupil numbers being encountered by other schools within the Foundation, however, Bridgerule's number has increased to 40. She also reported that discussions are still taking place regarding the Primary Lead.

Emergency Planning

Mr. Sharp was not in attendance and a report was not available.

928. Close

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.30 p.m.

Signature **Date**