



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 27th September 2022 at 7.45 pm. at Bridgerule Village Hall.

Present: Chairman K. James,

Councillors: Cllrs D. Hale, J. McDougall, B. Beadle, S. Cholwill, F. Cogdell, J. Philpott.

In Attendance: Clerk.

Public x 1

Apologies: Cllr. K. Bowditch.

Declaration of Interests: The Chairman asked that interests be declared as they arise.

2965. Public Session: No questions raised.

2966. Co-option of Councillors. Two interested parties had expressed an interest in becoming councillors, Mr. S. Whatmore, who was present and Mr. M. Tape, who gave apologies for not being attend the meeting. Personal statements had been received from both parties. To be co-opted to the council, proposed 1st KJ, 2nd, BB, all councillors in favour. Register of Interest Forms to be submitted to TDC Elections Office.

KJ, said he wished to stand down from the present role of chairman for the remainder of this year to the elections next May, due to personal reasons and become Vice-Chairman and the Vice Chairman, DH would take over the role of Chair of the Council from the next meeting. He would continue to offer advice and support to Clerk as needed and thanked her for all her work since taking the post last year. Proposed Chairman and Vice Chairman role reversal 1st, JMD, 2nd, BB. DH wished to record thanks to KJ for the vast amount of work he had undertaken in the Bridgerule area over many years for both the District and Parish Councils. JMD also wished to acknowledge the efforts and huge amount of work done and expressed thanks to KJ.

2967. County Councillors Report : No report given.

2968. District Councillors Report : KJ said that some District Councils had found the current economic climate challenging, but Torridge were managing financially and were managing to balance budgets, although reduced. They were doing well with the Rebate Scheme and the Financial Hardship Fund has been going to plan. North Devon currently had a shortage of officers and were trying to recruit more.

2969. Police Report : No report given.

Crime report received from TDNW Scheme; no crimes had been reported in Bridgerule. JMD pointed out that the local Neighbourhood Watch scheme related to Burglaries and crimes reported to them and not necessarily meant no crimes had been committed in the area and reported to the police. A reported Burglary from a shed at a property in St Giles had been listed this month.

2970. Council Meeting Minutes - Minutes of 18th August, had been circulated to councillors and the Minutes were agreed by councillors present and signed by the Chairman as correct. Proposed 1st, FC, 2nd DH, all councillors in favour.

2971. Matters Arising – Item no 2960, regarding condition of the B3254, DH said he would take up the matter with the Police as a safety issue for road users,

Item no: 2953, new development at Middle Road, KJ said that TDC had given a financial notice to the developers and SW reported that a resident of Southfields was having problems with sewage and effluent being present in their bathroom toilet, since the sewer of the development had been connected to the main sewer nearby. This had been ongoing for approximately 6 months or more. It happens on a regular basis, sometimes twice a day. The same resident had had problems with their main water supply since the new development had been commenced, but that had been resolved by South West Water. Clerk to email Planning at TDC to inform of above problems affecting resident. KJ would relate this matter to TDC. There was going to be a new system set up at TDC regarding S106 money.

SC mentioned cars parking in the Hall Carpark, one vehicle had a SORN notice and 2 were untaxed. Some vehicles had been parked there for many months, without moving. A policy on parking for residents may be needed imminently. It was felt signs regarding ownership and denominating the car park was privately owned, should be investigated, DH would approach Jag Signs as to costings. Clarification would be sought from the Police regarding these vehicles about future and appropriate action to be taken.

The new dog bin had arrived and would be positioned on the grass verge along the roadside of the hall carpark. The existing bin near the bus shelter would be relocated to the verge opposite, on Littlebridge Hill. FC would co-ordinate this with BB. Clerk to inform TDC recycling when both in situ.

The Memorial Plaque for Elizabeth McArthur had been received and was shown to councillors. The bench needed a concreted base to be secured to, to prevent movement and the plaque needed to be attached to the bench to complete this project completely.

2972. School Safety, parking and Speedwatch. – An email and attachments regarding illuminated road speed warning signs and costs had been received, with a letter from the school principal, stating concerns of safety at school drop off and collection time. These were presented to councillors and a discussion followed. The cost of a sign of this type would be in the region of £2500 upwards. Printed copies were given to councillors and files and attachments would be emailed for reference. A site meeting had been held at the school area at school collection time with JM, KJ, DH and the school principal recently, to observe the issues and see what, if any improvements could be implemented or suggested to increase safety for that area. The PSCO was unable to attend that meeting, but would come on another day to be arranged, to meet with DH and the school principal. DH said that JM would enquire if a contribution from DCC may be available and there may also be a possibility of some funding from KJ TDC councillors grant fund which would help towards the cost. Clerk had had a response from the local Highways Manager, who had contacted the DCC Traffic team, who had said it would review and look at any suggestions the parish council could make to them. Suggestions were, more speed signs, reducing speed limit from current 30mph, re-painting yellow lines next to school, rumble strips and speed humps. A volunteer had come forward to organise a Community Speedwatch scheme, and details on how to achieve this would be forwarded to the resident, so this could be commenced as soon as practicably possible. It was agreed to Agenda this item to progress further and to discuss at the next meeting. Email to be sent to the Traffic team. Meeting to be arranged with PSCO.

2973. To Receive Correspondence – The clerk had received correspondence from:

Email from local Highways Manager regarding School Safety and Traffic speed at School Area,

Letter from resident regarding recent traffic incident when a car traveling at speed through the village ended with the car on its roof after clipping the kerb, resident enquiring on possibility of speed humps to slow speeds through the village.

Email regarding Agendas and Minutes accessibility, the website had now been fully updated.

Email from Highways Manager regarding new development on Middle Road, referred to Enforcement.

Email from School Principal with files and attachments, to be emailed to councillors.

Email from PKF Littlejohn with Audit conclusion.

Emails regarding possible grant requests for two organisations.

2974. To Approve Grass Cutting Payment for Bridgerule Football Club :

Grass cutting Grant application had been received, proposed payment of £600, 1st, BB, 2nd JP, all councillors in favour.

2975. Accounts and Accounts due for payment : Finance sheets had been circulated with the minutes prior to meeting and given to all councillors.

Items due for payment this month were,
£19,073.15, final instalment of new Playpark equipment,
£114.00, Jag Signs for Memorial Plaque,
£180.00, Village Grass cutting,
£600.00, Bridgerule Football Club, towards grass cutting costs.
£240.00, PKF Littlejohn, Auditors Fees

Costs of New Litter Bin were discussed, to be sited near the riverside, estimated to be around £180.00 including delivery, Clerk to purchase. £500 had been transferred from Current account into Reserve account. Vat reclaim had been received. Current Account balance agreed at £26,252.83 as at 22nd August 2022. Proposed 1st, KJ, 2nd, 7 votes for, 1 abstention. Carried.

2976. Chairmans Report : No report given.

2977. Planning –

1/0793/2022/FUL – Conversion of agricultural shed to 1 dwelling- Barn at Lodgeworthy Farm, Bridgerule, Devon. EE 227572 N 102472.

DH declared an interest and refrained from discussion and abstained from voting.

FC enquired if the electricity pole was to be moved, it was not.

“The council support the application.” Councillors in favour, 7 for, 1 abstention. Carried.

1/0911/2022/FUL – Erection of 1 Dwelling, Lodgeworthy Farm, Bridgerule, Devon. E 227572 N 102475.

DH declared an interest and abstained from voting.

“The council has no objection to the application”. Councillors in favour, 7 for, 1 abstention. Carried.

A discussion followed in reference to Application no: 1/0753/2022/AGMB, recently granted permission. KJ to check with TDC that permission had been granted in accordance with rules and policy.

SC said that the Buzz newsletter would like to publish planning applications and Minutes from the meetings. The chairman said that Minutes would need to be approved and signed before publication can take place and planning applications would need to follow what is detailed from TDC.

Applications granted permission – Information Only, 1/0753/2022/AGMB, Change of use of Agricultural Building to 4 no: Dwellings, Borough Farm, Bridgerule and

1/0303/2022/FULM, Redevelopment of Clubhouse and Facilities, Hedley Wood Caravan Park, Bridgerule, Devon.

2977. Village Hall and Community Shop Plans:

Currently the Hall has limited line availability at present for Broadband, one is used by the Post Office. Hopefully this will improve in future for the planned Wi-Fi to be installed at the hall.

Plans from the architect for the proposed shop were shown and discussed by councillors, including the fire exit. SC will now submit plans to TDC on behalf of the Chairman of the parish council.

2978. Bus Shelter Roof and Repairs :

FC outlined proposed repairs to the roof required, all councillors agreed the work needed to be done and FC would organise this and invoice the costs to the council for the next meeting. Paint would also be required to be purchased, as a resident had kindly offered to paint it, when repairs had been made.

2979. Car Park and Highways :-

Had been discussed as above.

2980. Clerks Report :

Clerk asked permission to buy a new mouse, preferably cordless, and a large memory stick. It was hoped to start a retained document policy shortly, where some historical documents and correspondence could be scanned and archived and stored electronically, the council has a large volume in storage. This would not affect the statutory documentation needing to be retained in both electronic and paper formats. Proposed, 1st FC, 2nd, JP, all councillors in favour. No further progress had been made with the Natwest online banking form, clerk to follow up.

2981. Exchange of Information: -

With the Christmas season approaching, does the council wish to consider a display or something for the village? Property at Newacott under Enforcement, it has been noted that a letterbox has been newly installed by the steel doors, and are there more animals and an additional caravan there? Clerk to enquire from Enforcement at TDC.

2982. Meeting Closed 9.30pm.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 18th October at 7.45pm.

Signed by Meeting Chairman : 

Date of signing : 