

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 18th June 2024 at 7.30.pm, at Bridgerule Village Hall.**

These minutes are provisional until signed by the Chairman at the next meeting.

**Present :**  Chairman: D Hale

Councillors, F. Cogdell, J. McDougall, S. Cholwill, K. James, M. Tape, S. Whatmore,

K. Bowditch.

In Attendance : Clerk.

Apologies : J. Trayford, J. Philpott.

Public : x 1

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

The Chairman wished to congratulate Cllr. Cholwill on being awarded a BEM from the Kings Birthday Honours list and councillors gave a round of applause.

**3328. Council Meeting Minutes :** Minutes of 21st May had been circulated to councillors. A typo error had been noticed and clerk had corrected, Item no: 3321, whereby Bushels had been typed instead of bushes. The Minutes were agreed by councillors present and signed by the Chairman as correct. Proposed 1st, JMD, 2nd SW, all councillors in favour.

**3329. Matters Arising :** There were no matters arising.

**Public Session :**  A resident who had recently purchased a property at Southfields, enquired about using the land owned by the council, the Southfields open space, which had been given to the council in 2006 by developers. The resident as a keen gardener and wildlife enthusiast was passionate about gardening and had noticed several species of birds in the areas treetops and as would be living nearby, offered to take over the maintenance of the area, improve it by cutting brambles and would look after the flowers for wildlife, bees and butterflies, with possibly an area set aside as a wildflower garden and potentially having some chickens kept there too. The title deeds and associated copy documents had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting and DH said it was clear from the copy deed that the area was to be an Open space for public use, which was not being used at present in this capacity. JMD said that Chickens and public do not mix. DH asked that the meeting go into Section 2 and the resident leave the meeting temporarily, for the council to consider the proposal and what could be offered to the resident. Resident left the meeting at 7.40pm. Councillors discussed the options and KJ said he thought there could be a “Licence to Use” agreement possibility, whereby the resident paid a nominal annual rent, if the council should choose to collect it, for maybe two years and then reviewed annually after, which would allow the resident to improve and enhance the area, but the council retained ownership. It would need to be detailed that the area must be available and open to the public, but the council felt that a total ban on dogs would be appropriate, considering the increasing problems in other areas with dog fouling. It was also noted that the stream was not owned by the council and the resident would need to be made aware of this, although the council owned the footbridge. KJ would consult with TDC, who could advise on the wording of the Licence, which could then be prepared for signing between the parish and the resident.

Out of Section 2, 7.50pm and the resident returned to the meeting and DH informed of the council’s decision and the proposal, which the resident was delighted to accept.

The agreement would be prepared in due course and clerk asked the resident to email contact details to enable future correspondence. FC asked if the resident would attend future Annual meetings with updates on progress with the area. DH restated the No Dogs allowed and advised on the stream and its borders and some overhanging trees which did not belong to the council, but a nearby property owners. The resident left the meeting at 7.52pm.

**3330. To Receive Correspondence :** Clerk had received :

Letter from resident in St Bridget’s area, regarding reducing speed limit in the area, which was read to

councillors, a request to reduce the speed limit from 60mph to 30mph had already been submitted to DCC,

Email re potholes at Narraton, Tackbeare road, reported ref W2422080657 and repaired 11.06.24,

Insurance – documents and proposed policy circulated to councillors,

Complaints of Dog Fouling in the Riverside area, instances of local dog owners failing to remove dog waste and the problem has become worse recently, with dog fouling spoiling the use and enjoyment of the area of others and becoming a safety hazard for grass cutting. A statement on behalf of the council to be included in the next edition of the Buzz, as if the problem continued, preventative and prohibitive action would need to be taken. All councillors in agreement with this course of action.

**3331. Chairmans Report :**  DH reported that the family of C. N. had planned a small gathering to place a memorial plaque on the bench at the riverside on 23rd June at 12.15pm. Members of the council and the people involved with the Bridgerule Open Gardens group were cordially invited. DH would sand and enhance the bench if possible on Saturday, in preparation. The garden contractor was maintaining the council owned grass area very well, and DH asked SC to pass on thanks.

**3332. Accounts and Accounts due for payment –**  Finance sheets had been circulated to councillors,

Items due for payment this month were :

Community First Insurance, £433.34 and SC Garden Maintenance, £204.00,

Current Account Balance agreed as at 31st May £10,373.98

£499 had been transferred to the Instant access reserve account, with another £499 pending transfer. Proposed 1st, SC, 2nd KJ , chairman asked for a show of hands, all councillors in favour.

**3333. Highways, Vas Signs and Speedwatch :** Vas updates, from 7th May to 18th June, Sign 1 Vicarage Hill

8192 passing vehicles recorded with 1335 travelling over 30mph which equates to 1 in 6.1. Maximum speed recorded 44mph with average speed of 25.5mph. Sign 2, Middle Road, 4552 passing vehicles with 319 travelling over 30mph which equates to 1 in 14.2. Maximum speed recorded 44.9mph with average speed of 21.8mph. DH left the meeting at 8.10pm and FC took the chair from this point.

Black boxes had been placed on the lamp post at Vicarage Hill it was noted, for the past few days, assumingly by DCC Highways and Traffic team.

Road Closure- 3rd to 5th July inclusive. Newacott Cross to Bevills Hill Farm, B3254, for works near the junction of Tackbeare Road and Under Road for Kier on behalf of South West Water.

**3334. Playpark and Bus Shelter update :**  Materials for the bus shelter repair had been arranged and the repair had not yet been completed due to time constraints but would be done as soon as practically possible. A local business had offered to supply the timber for the new fence needed for the playpark and a local fencing company would undertake the work needed to erect it for no charge, but this was not likely to be until at least September due to their work commitments, FC would oversee the potential timings and this item to be put on September’ s Agenda.

**3335. Football Club Annual Grass Cutting Payment :** Councillors discussed the annual grass cutting payment for the club’s maintenance of the field. MT explained that sadly there would be no football this coming season due to insufficient players and a lack of interest in recruiting new ones to the team.

The club had to forfeit three games last season due to lack of players and were fined which cost the club money. MT said the club committee were still prepared to cut and mow the field and grassed areas.

KJ said the pavilion and field were built as a community playing field and would still need maintaining, as the intentions were that the field could be used by the school on weekdays and the Football Club at weekends. MT said the committee would still hold a fundraising event to raise funds for the basic running costs of electricity for the clubhouse and insurance and that Bude youth team used the pitch on four occasions last year for a fee of £50 each time, which provided income for the club, and it was hoped that this may be repeated this year. Proposed, the annual grass cutting payment of £700 be made this coming year, in two instalments, 1st FC, 2nd KJ, chairman asked for a show of hands, all councillors in favour. The football club to provide an update on plans for the club at the beginning of next year.

**3336.** **VAS Sign Risk Assessment :** At annual review , this had not been accepted by councillors as the risks defined are detailed as high. Clerk had asked if the details within and procedures carried out by those involved were accurate and needed amending, as had no prior knowledge of VAS sign maintenance and what this entailed.

Councillors agreed that the assessment needed modifying and steps implemented to mitigate the risks but proposed the Assessment be accepted for this year 1st KB, 2nd KJ, all councillors in favour. Motion carried.

**3337. Planning:**

**For information only, application no: 1/0132/2024/FUL** –Retrospective application for conversion of stables to 1 no: dwelling, Dux Barn Annexe 2, Derril, Pyworthy. Application granted permission.

**3338. Bank Signatories :** Currently, only 2 councillors were able to authorise payments, and had online access with clerk as the submitter for these requests. DH would need to contact Unity to reinstate access and KJ yet to apply for online banking. All four signatories had been carried forward to Unity from the previous mandate from NatWest. KJ said he would proceed with his application for online access with clerks’ assistance next month and it was agreed to proceed with this, rather than remove and apply for another signatory. Payments of up to £500 are currently able to processed.

**3339. Clerks Report :**  Clerk reported that the Annual Agar Governance documents had been completed and filed. The Police/Parish workshop due to be held yesterday had been cancelled due to Police workload but one had been scheduled for July. Clerk to email PC FM re the untaxed cars still being used in Bridgerule. Some reports of antisocial behaviour had been received at the Football field near the club, MT would investigate this. From the recent Holsworthy police crime stats, 1 crime had been reported in Bridgerule in April, on or near The Green, of Violence and Sexual Assault. 24 crimes were reported in Holsworthy and 2 in Bradworthy. Changes to Electoral register this month, 6 creations, 4 deletions and 1 amendment. Dalc are planning a training course in October on Planning, S106 monies and appeals which clerk would like to attend, councillors agreed this could be beneficial and this item be included on next month’s Agenda.

**3340. Exchange of Information :**

Property at Newacott Cross, Enforcement are still involved,

KJ said that the Bereavement support group in the Holsworthy Community Hub were planning a Coffee Morning for any attendees and those who may need counselling or support, Manshed continued and the Stroke Clinic in Holsworthy was moving to the Tamar units. Clerk apologised for not having a DC report on the Agenda but KJ said that councillors were strictly speaking in Purdah due to the forthcoming election, it was actually correct for their not to be this month.

Some signage had been placed on the village shop and a directional sign installed, the committee were awaiting further updates from Jag Signs about additional ones, and these were being considered for other areas, possibly the chapel area to provide directions to the shop.

Could another notice board be purchased for the Littlebridge area, the newly installed one at the Riverside area was being well used for events and information for the village, councillors agreed this could be useful and for this to be on next month’s Agenda for discussion.

**3341: Meeting closed at 8.47pm.** Date of next meeting Tuesday 16th July at 7.30pm.

**Signed by Meeting Chairman : …………………………………………………………………………………..**

**Date of signing : …………………………………………………………………………………….**

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