

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING, BROMPTON REGIS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING, HELD IN BROMPTON REGIS VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2022**

**The meeting opened at 730pm and closed at 735pm**

**1. PRESENT**

Mr J Andrews, Mr D Cherry, Mr S Coates, Mr P Collins, Ms T Davies, Ms L Luxton, Mr M Headley, Mr S Pugsley, Cllr. N. Thwaites and Mrs B Page (Temporary Clerk).

**2. APOLOGIES**

Mr I. Abel, Mr M Arnold, Ms S Buchanan (Clerk), Mr B Chaffey, Cllr. F. Nicholson,.

**3. Welcome and review of the year.**

The BRPC Chairman, Mr Headley welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting and thanked all councillors for their contributions to the Parish over the last year. With the continued shadow of COVID-19, and the loss of many friends within the Parish, 2021-22 was a challenging year for everyone. The death of the previous Chairman, Miss Sue Newton, who had been a respected and integral part of the community and Parish Council for many years, was reported and The Chairman noted that her contributions had already been sorely missed.

Looking ahead to the new Parish Council year, two councillors Brian Chaffey and Ian Abel have left the Council. Whilst Brian's time as a Parish Councillor had been short, he made a lasting impression and he was thanked for stepping in as Vice Chairman after Miss Newton's death. Brian's insights into the Wimbleball area of the Parish have been invaluable. On behalf of BRPC the Chairman thanked Mr Abel for his contribution to the Parish and in particular his willingness to turn a hand to sorting out jobs throughout the Parish and the insight he brought to the Parish Council as a valued long standing resident of Brompton Regis.

Mr Arnold was thanked for the contributions and perspective he brought to the Parish Council from Bury. His continued role as a liaison member for Bury was welcomed.

Two new councillors join the BRPC at the Annual Parish Council Meeting today. Dale Cherry, and Tania Davies. On behalf of the BRPC, the Chairman welcomed them and looked forward to their contributions to the Parish Council. The Chairman thanked continuing councillors for their ongoing role and support of the community.

On behalf of BRPC Cllr. Nicholson, Cllr. Thwaite and Cllr. Pugsley were thanked for their support for the Parish and their contributions to BRPC meetings. It is hoped that all will continue to attend regular meetings, to provide valuable updates, and outside of our Parish, to provide a voice for Brompton Regis. The meeting noted that Cllr. Nicholson and Cllr. Pugsley were elected to the Somerset Council. It was hoped that

their experience and understanding of our area will be valuable all as the new council's arrangements are made. The Chairman advised the meeting that Cllr. Thwaite did not stand for election to the new council.

In a summary of its activities during 2021-22 the Chairman reported that BRPC made grants of around £4,250. These supported the community in different ways, including landscaping and environmental enhancements (such as the George Meadow Millennium Green), the Brompton Regis Toddler Group (to provide start-up funds, post COVID-19, for new toys, and contributions towards running costs), The Brompton Regis Lunch Club (for a community event held last summer), Exmoor Young Voices (to support young people with a local tie who are in housing need, build themselves a home), and Parish Lifts (a community car scheme, providing transport to those in need). BRPC continued to fund the costs of the defibrillator based at Brompton Regis Village Hall, and the community website.

In the year 2022-23 the BRPC has supported a Parish event to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The Chairman advised that whilst all residents across the Parish are likely to be pleased that the BRPC has been able to support these worthy causes, the parish must be conscious of the demands on the BRPC's funds and he noted that last year it received £5,750 from the District Council, and £150 compensation from its bank.

Working with other organisations is central to BRPC's activities. It is regularly in touch with the Exmoor National Park Authority (ENPA), having been consulted on Planning Applications within the Parish and the Local Plan, and about plans for a cycle path around Wimbleball Lake. BRPC continues to work with South West Lakes Trust and the ENPA to address various issues in relation to Wimbleball Lake. Additional support has been shown by both ENPA and the Police, in the ongoing saga around problem parking and antisocial behaviour at Bessom Bridge and on Hill Lane. It is hoped that this will bring added resource to the area to combat the issues faced by both residents and business during the summer months.

The BRPC's relationship with the Highways Authority has been good throughout the year, and it is hoped that with the new Highways Steward Scheme being introduced, this will only improve.

Mrs Babs Page was thanked for stepping in this evening as Temporary Clerk.

The Chairman thanked the Clerk, Sarah Buchanan, for her ongoing commitment to the Parish Council.

#### **4. Parish business**

There being none the meeting closed at 735pm.