

MINUTES OF THE BROMPTON REGIS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING, HELD AT BROMPTON REGIS VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 6th JULY 2022

The meeting opened at 7.35pm

136. PRESENT

Mr J Andrews (From 7.40pm), Mr D Cherry, Mr S Coates, Ms T Davies, Mr M Headley (Chairman), Ms L Luxton, Mr L Ringrose.

Also present

Mr M Arnold (Bury liaison), Cllr. F Nicholson, Cllr. S Pugsley (from 7.45pm) and Ms S Buchanan (Clerk).

137. INTRODUCTIONS

Mr Headley introduced Mr Arnold, welcomed him to the meeting and thanked him for his ongoing role as the Bury liaison.

138. DEFERMENT OF BUSINESS FOR COMMENT BY THE PUBLIC

None.

139. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ACCEPTANCE OF ANY REASONS OFFERED

Cllr. N Thwaites - Meeting clash.

140. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None.

141. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS AND MEETING MANAGEMENT

None.

142. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 15th JUNE 2022 AS CIRCULATED

With the addition of 'unanimously' at the decision on minute 127.1 and deletion of 'run' at minute 135, Mr Cherry proposed and Mr Ringrose seconded approval of the minutes. This was unanimously **AGREED** and the Chairman signed the minutes as an accurate record.

143. COUNCILLORS' UPDATES

143.1 Local Community Networks: Cllr. Nicholson provided an overview of the requirement for Local Community Networks (LCNs) in Somerset as a means to enable community influence within the new Somerset Council. There are expected to be 15-25 LCNs, each a committee of the Somerset Council and supported by a funded officer, tasked to consider information provided by the Council, undertake priority setting for their area, and identify opportunities for devolved activity (including commissioning). There are currently three pilot LCNs, each with a different subject focus. The Exmoor LCN is focussed on highways. It is a subcommittee of the Exmoor Panel and is supported by a steering group made up of local Councillors and Clerks. Cllr. Nicholson emphasised the need for LCNs to be properly funded, to enable communication and consultation with local communities and for any devolved activity to be cost neutral.

Discussion highlighted the following points:

- Each LCNs will address a broad range of issues;
- The structure/shape of the current Exmoor LCNs pilot may not be appropriate to address issues other than highways;
- LCNs near county boundaries should communicate with adjacent authorities.

ACTION: CLERK to sign up to, and circulate to BRPC members, LCNs newsletters.

143.2 HGVs through Bury: The Chairman invited Cllr. Nicholson and Cllr. Pugsley to address concerns about inappropriate HGV traffic through Bury, which has caused damage to properties, this having been raised previously with them by Mr Arnold. Cllr. Nicholson advised that there are 'Unsuitable for HGV's' signs currently in place on access roads to Bury. After discussion it was agreed that Mr Arnold and Cllr. Nicholson will raise the matter with the local police team and Highways Authority.

143.3 Exmoor Clouds rally and use of Port Lane, Bury: Cllr. Nicholson advised that an application for this rally has been received by the Somerset Council and is not likely to be supported.

143.4 Fibre roll out from the Devon border into Somerset: Cllr. Nicholson outlined steps to enable this including liaison between the Highways Authority and Openreach.

144. UPDATE ON ACTION POINTS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

144.1 Minute 127.1 Bury Defibrillator: The Clerk outlined the options available and costs, and her conclusion was that a pole sited defibrillator was appropriate and that sources of funding be sought to reduce the cost to the BRPC. The Chairman noted that there would be ongoing costs to the BRPC and set out the motion that the Clerk pursue funding opportunities with the potential to install a pole mounted defibrillator. Ms Luxton proposed and Ms Davies seconded, and this was unanimously **AGREED**.

ACTION: CLERK to report back to a future meeting.

144.2 Minute 127.2 Emergency Planning: The Chairman reported a meeting with an electrician which identified the need for a minimum of 3kw generator to switch on shop fridges and freezers and recommended 7 kilowatt to allow other uses.

ACTION: CLERK to identify power of offered generators.

144.3 Minute 127.3 Vehicle Count Hill Lane: The Chairman summarised the offer by the Highways Authority to provide 3 x 1 week counts at a cost to the BRPC of £450+VAT. Cllr. Nicholson advised that she was looking into the potential for the LCNs devolved budget to purchase suitable equipment for use on Exmoor. Cllr. Pugsley advised that BRPC may consider submitting a request to that budget for £450+VAT. Both suggestions to be discussed at the LCNs steering group meeting scheduled for 15th July 2022. The Chairman advised that ENPA has offered to meet BRPC to discuss how the planning system can address the Council's concerns regarding developments at Wimbleball Lake, and presented the motion that the Head of Planning be invited to a forthcoming BRPC meeting. Mr Andrews proposed and Mr Ringrose seconded, and it was unanimously **AGREED** that an invitation be issued.

ACTION: CLERK to invite Mr Kinsella to the BRPC meeting to be held on 7th September 2022.

145. BURY POST BOX

The Chairman reported that the Victorian post box serving Bury has not been able to be used since April 2022 and that the Clerk had reported this and complained at the lack of action. Royal Mail has now placed the repair on an urgent list for action.

146. SUPBIKERUN

Mr Andrews having raised this at the previous meeting was invited to speak and voiced concern that the event was held at a time when other activities at Wimbleball Lake had been shut due to suspected blue green algae in the water. He noted that there appeared to have been no signs at the Lake regarding the risks of the algae to health, despite a report that a dog had died and others been taken ill after contact with the algae. He said that there was a need for local information. Councillors confirmed the report by Mr Andrews and the Chairman presented the motion that the Clerk contact South West Lakes Trust (SWLT) and ask for information on the algae, the risks associated with it, and reasons for an event to continue while other activities were shut. Ms Davies proposed and Mr Andrews seconded this motion, and it was unanimously **AGREED**. It was suggested that the SWLT be invited to use the community website and Brendon Beacon to release information. Mr Ringrose asked that an empty life belt container near Bessom Bridge be reported to SWLT.

ACTION: CLERK to contact SWLT to seek information, suggest use of the Brendon Beacon and website, and report the missing life belt.

147. THE LOCK UP / POUND

The Chairman referred to the report by English Heritage on this listed monument which had been circulated prior to the meeting and invited comments on its content, and advised that the reference to a well had been reviewed by previous Parish Councillors who believed the item was a sump drain not a well. The Clerk is looking into this to update the information which supports the Listing.

The Chairman invited suggestions for ways in which the area around the building could be improved. Suggestions included: a general tidy up, a herb garden, a new and more informative sign. He presented the motion that volunteers be sought to tidy up the area and that the Clerk look into a more informative sign. Ms Luxton proposed and Mr Coates seconded the motion, and it was unanimously **AGREED**.

ACTION: CLERK to draft an item for the Brendon Beacon and website to invite volunteers, and discuss with ENPA a more informative sign.

148. HIGHWAYS

148.1 Highways Steward Tasks to be Reported by the Clerk

Nothing this month.

Mr Coates reported a meeting with the Highway Steward, and gave positive feedback. Councillors noted that works to address the tasks reported in June 2022 appeared to be underway. Mr Coates recommended that Mrs Abell continue in her role as Highways Warden for the parish.

148.2 Community Highways Scheme Devolved Budget

Information about this having been circulated prior to the meeting the Chairman presented the motion that an application be made to fund the Vehicle Count at Hill Lane (minute 144.3). This was proposed by Ms Davies and seconded by Mr Coates, and unanimously **AGREED**.

ACTION: CLERK to make an application to the budget.

149. PLANNING

149.1 Application 6/35/22/103: (Treborough parish). Little Acres, Brendon Hill. Proposed establishment of a rare breed poultry farm and horticultural business involving temporary residential caravan and erection of polytunnel and 3 buildings, installation of solar panels and 2 dew ponds. Resubmission of refused application 6/35/21/102

The content of the decision notice issued by ENPA on the previous application on this site was outlined and the Chairman invited comments on the current application. Councillors expressed objections to the application on grounds of negative impact on the landscape and character of the area, enlargement of the access, that the site is

not suitable for the proposed business, highways issues, the application is little different from the one refused, contravention of a number of ENPA policies.

The Chairman presented the motion that the BRPC submit an objection on the following grounds:

The proposed development contravenes many ENPA policies and the objectives of the National Park, including GP-1, CE-S1, CE-D1, CE-S6, HC-S1, HC-D8, HC-D9, HC-D11 and Annex 2 of the Local Plan.

If approved, the proposed development would not be in keeping with the local landscape or the landscapes of the National Park. The site is in open countryside where policies do not support developments such as those proposed. If approved the development would have a negative impact on landscape quality and would be likely to create significant highways issues on a busy single track road. The Parish Council is concerned that work started on the site without permission and in contravention of ENPA policies, including enlargement of access to the site, installation of a caravan a shed and free standing solar panels.

This motion was proposed by Ms Luxton and seconded by Mr Coates, and unanimously **AGREED**.

ACTION: CLERK to submit the response.

149.2 Application 6/3/22/104: Orchard Cottage, Bury. Proposed creation of a dormer window.

Councillors made the following observations: the rationale for the window (to provide height for a shower) did not seem to be a material planning consideration and there is a downstairs bathroom; the proposal is for works on the roof yet a bat survey was said by the applicant not to be required; the proposal is on the boundary elevation and if approved would give direct sight of the adjacent property, and vice versa; the proposal breaks the roof line and if approved would be detrimental to the overall scene; the development proposed is not suitable on the site as proposed.

The Chairman invited Mr Arnold to speak. Mr Arnold advised that there are restrictive covenants on development on the side of the property where works are proposed, and noted that these are separate from planning issues.

The Chairman presented the motion that BRPC object to the application on the following grounds:

The proposed development appears to contravene ENPA policies including CE-S5 and CE-S6.

The proposed development does not reflect the form and context of the building or its setting. If approved the proposal would have a negative impact on the visual amenity and character of the site. We believe the proposed development is not suitable on this site.

We are concerned that the applicant has stated that a bat survey is not required. As the proposal involves alteration to the roof we believe a survey would be required.

Mr Headley proposed and Mr Ringrose seconded the motion, and it was **AGREED**.

ACTION: CLERK to submit the response.

150. FINANCE

The Chairman outlined the motion that the invoice for councillor training (SALC £50) be paid and that subsequent SALC invoices for training this summer be rolled together for payment. Ms Davies proposed the motion and Mr Cherry seconded it, and it was unanimously **AGREED**.

151. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING: 7.30pm on 3rd August 2022 at Brompton Regis Village Hall.

The Chairman invited Parish Councillors to raise matters. Ms Davies asked if sports equipment for older children be considered for installation on the Millennium Green, and this was referred to that Committee.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

Signed as a correct record:

Chairman: Mr M Headley

Date: