

MINUTES OF THE BROMPTON REGIS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT BROMPTON REGIS VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 5TH DECEMBER 2018

251 PRESENT

Miss S. Newton (Chairman), Mr. I Abell, Mr. J Andrews, Mr. S. Coates, Cllr. F. Nicholson (1935 to 2015), Mr. P. Page, Mr. A. Scrimgeour, Mrs. J. Scott, Mrs. S. Buchanan (Clerk) and three members of the public: Mr S. Hutchings, Mr N. Hutchings and Mr. K. Steer.

252 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr K. Turner.

253 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr Andrews declared an interest in item 7a, planning.

254 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7th NOVEMBER 2018

Councillors were invited to comment on the draft minutes, which had been circulated prior to the meeting. The minutes were unanimously **APPROVED** as a correct record and signed as such.

255 MATTERS ARISING

255.1 Mr. Page sought assurance that the italicised text at minute 246.3 was the response submitted to ENPA and the Clerk assured him it was and advised that BRPC comments on planning applications are on public record and may be accessed on the ENPA planning portal.

255.2 Mr Scrimgeour asked if all actions cited had been progressed and the Clerk confirmed this was the case.

256. CORRESPONDENCE

256.1 Death of Mr P Stringer

The meeting noted with great sadness the death of Pete Stringer, a previous BRPC Chairman and longstanding resident of the parish. Mr Page and Mr Coates AGREED to represent the BRPC at the funeral and celebration of Mr. Stringer's life.

256.2 Grant to BR Village Hall

The meeting noted the Hall Committee's thanks for the BRPC grant toward refurbishment and welcomed the redecorations.

256.3 The Glover review of protected landscapes

The information from ENPA on this matter having been previously circulated the meeting AGREED no comments be submitted.

256.4 Devon and Somerset broadband survey

The information on this having been circulated to councillors and to the Brendon Beacon and displayed on the parish council noticeboard it was AGREED that no BRPC response to the survey be submitted and that individuals who wish to respond on a personal basis may do so.

256.5 Locality engagement leads

The announcement of two new post holders in the new district council was discussed. Concern was expressed that at a time when public services are being reduced new posts have been created which would seem to overlap with the roles and responsibilities of district councillors. Parish Councillors were concerned that the posts may not represent good value for money. It was AGREED that the post holders be encouraged to attend parish council area meetings.

ACTION: CLERK to respond to the post holders' email to encourage attendance at area meetings.

257 PLANNING

257.1 Amended application number 6/3/18/110

Mr. Andrews, the applicant, explained that the plans had been resubmitted in order to show the dimensions of the visibility splay and include information about drainage and hard standing.

Mr. Andrews left the meeting at 1942.

The Meeting discussed the amendment and AGREED that no comment be made.

Mr Andrews returned to the meeting at 1945.

257.2 Amended application number 6/3/18/104

The Chairman outlined the amendments which were the report of the bat survey and specification for bat boxes and the proposed visibility splay.

Mr S and Mr N Hutchings were invited to speak to the application and in doing so presented their concerns that the application for the visibility splay affected land which the applicant did not own and the splay was not required if the main access route to the new buildings was through Trotts Lane. Mr N Hutchings stated that the verge in question belongs to Kings Brompton Farm and that the landowners had not given permission for works to be carried out to create a visibility splay. He said that if the hedge is removed to create a splay, a fence will be needed to hold stock and mark the boundary so that if the owner of the verge wishes to bring the verge back into field use the boundary is clear. Mr N Hutchings stated that the applicant has not proved a right of way over the lane and without a right of way to the buildings on the lane the visibility splay is not required. Mr N Hutchings suggested that the distance of the proposed splay from the site of the application at Combeland was sufficient to warrant a separate planning application.

Cllr Nicholson noted that planning applications may be submitted for development on land which is not owned by the applicant and that a landowner must be notified of any application on their land.

The Chairman clarified that the main access was not through Trotts lane and the ford and thanked Mr S and Mr N Hutchings for their comments. Parish Councillors discussed the amendments to the application and expressed concern that apparent uncertainty over the ownership of the land on which the visibility splay is proposed makes it difficult to understand if the application, if granted, would be implemented and this uncertainty makes comments difficult to make. Mr Page and Mr Scrimgeour questioned whether an application for the visibility splay should be a separate

application rather than an amendment to the original application because the splay is at some distance from the site of the original application. It was concluded that without clarification of landownership and whether a separate application is needed the BRPC could not make any comments. And it was AGREED that a submission be made with those points, as follows:

At its meeting on 5th December Brompton Regis Parish Council discussed this amended application. Councillors did not consider they could make a decisive comment unless there was clarification on the ownership of the land on which the splay is proposed.

Because the splay is at some distance from the site of the original application, Parish Councillors questioned whether an application for the visibility splay should be a separate application rather than an amendment to the original application.

It was therefore concluded that without clarification of landownership and whether a separate application is needed the BRPC could not make any comments on the amendment.

ACTION: Clerk to submit a response as outlined above.

Mr S and Mr N Hutchings left the meeting at 1955.

258 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S UPDATE

Cllr Nicholson updated the meeting on the provision of salt and grit in the parish with reference to the emails from the Highways Authority which had been copied to parish councillors. She outlined the effects of budget cuts on road signage.

Mr. Page asked if consideration could be given to reflectors on the junction of Jury Road. Dulverton with the 'B' road at Machine Cross.

ACTION: Cllr Nicholson to look into this.

Cllr Nicholson drew attention to consultation by the SCC on 'early help services and by the Clinical Commissioning Group on preventative health care.

259 FINANCE

259.1 Grant requests

The Chairman outlined a request from the community shop for a grant toward the costs of flooring. Mr Coates advised the meeting that the BR Show had provided a grant toward this work but further funds were needed to complete the works.

The Chairman outlined a request from the Short Mat Bowls group for support for their efforts to raise funds for an electric winder and her discussions of this with Jan Ross of Engage. This had identified the importance in fund raising by this group of parish council support in a letter setting out the value of the group locally. The meeting AGREED this be provided by the Chairman. The meeting considered the costs and benefits of an electric winder and noted that the BR Show and BR Lunch Club had both provided grants toward the costs.

The meeting considered a request for a grant to support landscape improvements and maintenance in the BR churchyard. Councillors noted that while legislation

preventing grants to open churchyards is extant recent legislation has countered but not withdrawn that ruling, and there case law does not clarify the legality or not of parish councils grant aiding open church yards. The Clerk had sought advice on this and advised councillors that while the situation was not clear BRPC should assess the risks of making a grant. Councillors discussed the planned maintenance of the churchyard and the impact of the churchyard in such a central position in the village. They concluded that the risks of supporting maintenance through a grant were not sufficient to prevent a grant which would enhance the landscape, amenity and wildlife value of the churchyard. Mr Coates advised that the BR Show had provided the BR PCC with a grant.

Mr Coates proposed and Mr Abell seconded and it was unanimously AGREED that

- a grant of £234 be made to the shop
- a grant of £100 be made to the short mat bowls group
- a grant of £750 be made to the BR PCC for churchyard maintenance which will enhance its amenity, landscape and wildlife value to the community.

ACTION: CLERK arrange grant payments.

259.2 Registration under the Data Protection Act: Annual fee

The Clerk advised that the annual fee of £40 is now due.

Mr Coates proposed and Mr Abell seconded payment and this was unanimously AGREED.

ACTION: CLERK make payment.

259.3 Salt and grit bags

The Chairman reprised the discussion at the November meeting (minute 247) in the contest of emails from the Highways Authority regarding provision of salt and grit in the forthcoming winter. Councillors discussed the risk of bins not being re-filled and of a long and / or late winter. Councillors noted the clear instruction from the HA that in 2019/20 parish councils would be likely to need to purchase supplies for local use.

Councillors welcomed the offer by Mr Cowling to store salt bags collected from the HA and/ or purchased by the BRPC for local use, taking on a role which Mr Andrews had filled in the past. After discussion on the risks of limited local supplies and the likelihood of rising costs it was unanimously AGREED that two pallets each containing 42 x 25kg bags be purchased at a cost of £203.10 including delivery to Rugglands and that this supply be used to top up bins and bags and other locations in the parish. Mr Andrews asked, and the Clerk AGREED, that if VAT is charged it will be reclaimed.

ACTIONS:

CHAIRMAN to order 2 pallets

CLERK to reclaim VAT as possible.

259.4 Precept

The Chairman outlined the BRPC's annual funding commitments and invited discussion on expenditure patterns. In discussion. Councillors noted the likelihood of increasing pressure on the BRPC to support local services and groups and to replace funding provided in the past by other local authorities, such as for salt and grit provision.

The grants provided to local groups in the current year were considered together with the potential to reduce the costs of some works on the Millennium Green. It was AGREED that in future the BRPC might need to exercise more care in grant making.

Mr Page proposed that the precept be kept at its current level and that was unanimously AGREED.

ACTION: CLERK advise the district council of the precept decision.

260 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

260.1 St Filans and Corner Cottage (minute number 246.2)

Mr Page noted that the ENPA had decided that a planning application was required for the proposed merger of these two houses.

260.2 Recycling

Mr Page reported that the West Quantocks and Williton Area panel of parish councils had received an interesting presentation from the South West partnership on waste which had described work to improve recycling opportunities in Somerset. Mr Page outlined the presentation and highlighted the differences in levels of recycling in the UK and other North European countries.

260.3 Dulverton Recycling Centre

Mr Coates advised the meeting of pending changes to opening times, the removal of charges and the need for certain vehicles to have permits when using the centre.

260.4 BR Show

Mr Coates outlined the grants made by the show to local groups as follows:

The Show had received requests for grants totalling £6,900 but had only £6,000 to allocate. Grants had been given to: the shop, BR church, Withiel Florey Chapel, the village hall, the mens' club, the short bowls groups, the Millennium Green, the craft club and the WI.

260.5 Bessom Bridge enforcement

Mr Page asked for an update on this matter. The Clerk advised that, since the last meeting, no further update has been received from ENPA.

261 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 2nd January 2019, 7.30pm, at Brompton Regis Village Hall. Councillors AGREED that, if there is no business with time constraints, due to the timing of the meeting vis a vis the holiday season, this meeting may be cancelled. The following meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 6th February 2019.

The Chairman wished Councillors and their families a Merry Christmas.
The meeting ended at 8.45pm.

Signed:.....Chairman, Brompton Regis Parish Council.
Date:.....