

MINUTES OF THE BROMPTON REGIS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD AT BROMPTON REGIS VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 3rd September 2025

The meeting opened at 735pm

614. PRESENT: Mr J Andrews, Mr D Cherry, Mr M Headley (Chairman), Ms L Luxton.

Also present: Mr G Shattock, Cllr Nicholson (from 745pm), Cllr S Pugsley (from 8pm) and Sarah Buchanan (Clerk).

The Chairman welcomed Mr Shattock to the meeting,

615. DEFERMENT OF BUSINESS

None.

616. APOLOGIES: Mr M Arnold, Ms T Davies, Mr L Ringrose and Cllr Nicholson (work or personal commitments).

Not present without apologies: Mr S Coates.

617. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Mr Cherry minute number 623.1.

618. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 2nd JULY 2025

These having been circulated prior to the meeting Ms Luxton proposed and Mr Cherry seconded their acceptance and approval as a correct record, and the minutes were signed as such.

619. POINTS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

619.1 Register of Interests (minute 607.1): The Chairman thanked Councillors for providing completed forms and reminded those yet to do so to send the forms to the clerk ASAP.

ACTION: ALL MEMBERS

619.2 Connectivity survey (minute 579.1): The Chairman thanked those involved in promoting and completing the survey. The results have been sent to the LCN economic sub group. Information collated showed a patchy coverage of internet and mobile phone services with particular problems reported in Bury and in the north

eastern parts of the parish where local provision of internet connectivity is not in place. The information is to be shared by the LCN with BT Openreach.

620. UPDATE ON COMMUNITY ACTIVITY REGARDING THE GEORGE INN

The Chairman thanked Mr Shattock for attending the meeting and providing a paper which had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. Mr Shattock updated the meeting on actions in the community since closure of The George and the pattern of support for events to provide a social meeting place in the absence of The George. He advised that the informal group which had formed had not been able to communicate with the owners of The George about future provision in the village and that they appeared to be in contravention of planning regulations regarding use of the building and its ancillary accommodation for private events and lettings. The meeting discussed the issues facing the village and the possible future scenarios including parliamentary consideration of legislation that may strengthen communities' rights to buy designated community assets.

Cllr Nicholson suggested that the informal group might find it useful to contact the Licensing Authority as well as the separate planning authority.

The Chairman thanked the informal group set up to address this issue for their work to put on and support community events and thanked Mr Shattock for the full overview. He confirmed that the parish council is in full support of protection of the community asset.

After Cllr Pugsley joined the meeting Mr Shattock returned to further discuss planning issues prior to a meeting with the planning team and it was agreed that further discussion would take place in due course.

ACTION: CLERK provide the group with the licensing team contact info.

621. SOMERSET COUNCILLORS' UPDATES

Cllr Nicholson encouraged attendance at the highways winter maintenance and LCN meetings will take place on 4th September 2025 and the ENPA planning overview meeting for parish councils on 16th September 2025. She advised that the community's immediate response to the recent coach accident on the A396 would be considered at the LCN as part of discussion of emergency planning. The winter maintenance meeting will particularly address the issue of gritting 'green routes' which include that from Brompton Regis to Roborough gate.

Cllr Pugsley advised that Somerset Council is seeking to define its budget and issues for parish council finances and precepts earlier than in previous years. He reported significant delays in processing planning applications to Somerset Council.

622. CORRESPONDENCE AND MEETINGS

622.1 Preparedness survey and emergency planning. The Clerk outlined the encouragement to parish councils to develop emergency plans and procedures. It

was **AGREED** that, in light of information collected in her recent meeting with a lead officer, she would send a briefing to members for consideration of if and how emergency plans could be developed for different parts of the parish, bearing in mind the different circumstances facing different areas within the parish, the widely scattered population and the parish geography.

ACTION: CLERK

- briefing note to members

- enquiry to SWLT / SWW about information and alert systems for issues affecting Wimbleball

- agenda item for next meeting.

622.2 SALC health and wellbeing grants. The Clerk outlined the programme of revenue grants administered by SALC, and referred members to information previously circulated to them. After consideration of the opportunity, and attendance at a SALC briefing meeting, the Clerk had contacted groups in the community to consider with them if and how a SALC grant might extend their opportunities to support health and social wellbeing.

Two realistic options had been identified: one to support new and enlarged activities by the arts and crafts group that meets in the village hall; one to provide first aid training to parish residents. Costings had been secured for the former (workshops at c £220 per session; community bus hire at £1.20 per mile). Information and costings for first aid training had proved more difficult to secure and were still being pursued.

After full discussion Mr Andrews proposed, Mr Headley seconded and the meeting **APPROVED** the following actions:

- On behalf of the BRPC the clerk to submit a mini grant application with the aim of supporting the arts and crafts group to extend its activities and participation and if awarded to apply learning from the grant to the BRPC's own support to other groups seeking to enhance health and wellbeing;
- Clerk to look further into half day / 3 hour emergency first aid course provided at no cost to residents on the model of the CPR and defibrillator course provided by the parish council in 2024.

ACTIONS: CLERK

623: FINANCE

623.1 Invoice for approval, Brompton Regis village hall rent for meetings: £68. Mr Cherry had declared an interest in this item.

Mr Headley proposed, Mr Andrews seconded and the meeting **APPROVED** payment of this invoice.

623.2 Clerk's quarterly salary: £400. Mr Headley proposed, Mr Andrews seconded and the meeting APPROVED payment.

623.3 Grant application for landscape amenity costs, St Mary's churchyard Brompton Regis. After discussion of the letter from Mr Rees which had been circulated to members, and the issues facing the churchyard, Mr Andrews proposed, Mr Cherry seconded and the meeting APPROVED a grant of £475.

624. PLANNING

Members were asked to advise the Clerk if they wish to attend the planning update workshop on 16th September 2025.

625. HIGHWAYS

625.1 Winter maintenance. The Clerk advised that she had checked grit bins and information provided to Somerset Council. The meeting expressed concerns at previous gritting provision including:

- no grit appears to be spread on the route from Beech Tree Cross to Mill Cross
- lack of gritting on the 'green' route (Mill Cross to Roborough Gate).

The Clerk reported that Somerset Council had provided information from a parish council that had considered and not taken on DIY road gritting in its area due to reported insurance liabilities facing farmers undertaking the role on behalf of the parish council.

After discussion it was AGREED that the information provided by Somerset Council prevented the parish council from taking action to request gritting by farmers or to provide equipment for DIY gritting, and that energy be focussed on securing gritting by the Highways Authority on the green route through the parish.

ACTION:

- **CHAIRMAN** secure evidence of lack of grit spreading in Brompton Regis village
- **CLERK** raise parish concerns at the winter maintenance meeting

Post meeting note: The Clerk has requested comment from SALC and the parish council's insurers as to their position on insurance and liabilities re gritting.

625.2 Immediate issues to report

- request 'unsuitable for HGVs' or width information signage at Combeshead (in addition to historic signpost finger re light vehicles only).

ACTION: CLERK

626. DATE TIME AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 1st October 2025
at 730pm at Brompton Regis Village.
The meeting closed at 905 pm.

Signed as a correct record:

Name: Date: