

MINUTES OF THE BROMPTON REGIS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD AT BROMPTON REGIS VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 5th November 2025

The meeting opened at 735pm

638. PRESENT: Mr J Andrews, Mr D Cherry, Mr S Coates, Ms T Davies, Mr M Headley (Chairman), Ms L Luxton.

Also present: Member of the public Mr P Vance until 815pm, Cllr F Nicholson (from 745pm), Cllr S Pugsley (from 750pm) and Sarah Buchanan (Clerk).

639. DEFERMENT OF BUSINESS

The Chairman invited Mr Vance to speak to the meeting at the appropriate point on the agenda and this was agreed.

640. APOLOGIES: Mr L Ringrose (work commitments).

641. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Ms L Luxton minute 646.1.

Mr Cherry and Mr Headley minute 645.

642. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 1st October 2025

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

643. POINTS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

643.1 BT payphones in the parish (minute 632.2). The Clerk has reported these as out of order and will continue to chase progress.

643.2 Somerset Preparedness event (minute 632.2). The Clerk had attended this event and found it useful. A further event will consider power outages and it is hoped the Clerk will be able to attend. See also minute 644.2.

643.3 Bessom Bridge road repairs (minute 636). The response from the Highways Authority to the Clerk's request for information having been circulated prior to the meeting it was noted that two teams are deployed on these works and one is awaited.

644. CORRESPONDENCE

644.1 Hiccombe planning issues. The Chairman reported correspondence querying the timetable for action on this matter and that the ENPA had advised that it is working with the landowner to move the matters forward and is mindful of the timetables involved.

644.2 BT Digital switchover. The clerk had circulated information collected from the Preparedness Event (minute 643.2) which was found to be incorrect/ contradict information on the BT website. The Clerk has asked the Somerset Preparedness team to secure a definitive statement on the issues of battery back up, actions for properties without broadband and payphones.

644.3 Christmas tree. A request has been made to place a Christmas tree beside phone and letter boxes. This was welcomed and AGREED.

645. FINANCE

The Clerk having circulated a request from the Millennium Green Committee for a grant of £335, Mr Cherry and Mr Headley declared an interest in this item as members of the committee. The meeting discussed the application and previous grants made to this group. Mr Coates proposed and Mr Andrews seconded that a grant be made and this was AGREED.

646. PLANNING

646.1 Application 6/3/25/009: Land south of Hownels Lane TA22 9LQ. Proposed demolition of a ruinous structure and erection of a building for mixed use agriculture and storage.

Ms Luxton declared an interest in this application as a neighbour of the property and acquaintance of the applicant.

The Chairman outlined the application and invited the applicant to speak. Mr Vance described the application, previous uses of the site and the intended use of the proposed building. He shared documentation and drawings to support that information.

Mr Andrews asked about steps to ensure security and the amount of land directly linked to the proposed building. Mr Vance outlined possible security measures and advised that the proposed building sits in 0.3 acres. The Chairman noted that concerns have been raised regarding the size of area relative to the proposed building and asked about the agricultural justification for the proposed building. The applicant described the various properties in the area where the tractors which would be stored in the building are used. The Chairman asked Cllr Pugsley for clarification as to whether an agricultural condition can be applied to a new building and the meeting discussed permissions for the incidental uses of existing agricultural buildings.

Discussion considered the use of the ground around the building and welcomed the proposal to tidy /clear it and plant trees. Cllr Pugsley referred to the comments made by the ENPA Future Landscapes Officer in the pre-planning advice provided to the applicant and the meeting endorsed those comments.

The meeting discussed the application and other similar applications which had been considered by the BRPC.

Mr Vance sought, and Cllr Nicholson provided, clarification of the role of the BRPC comments in the planning system's decision making processes.

It was AGREED that Brompton Regis Parish Council support the application on the following grounds:

- the proposal replaces an existing albeit ruinous building;
- if approved the building will be screened from the highway and surrounding land;
- although isolated the proposed building would not have a noticeable adverse effect;
- no external lighting is proposed;
- and that as it is understood that the proposed building will be used for agricultural purposes BRPC suggests that if the proposal is approved a condition to this effect be placed on it,

647. SOMERSET COUNCILLORS' UPDATES

Cllr Pugsley referred to the forthcoming meeting of the Exmoor Local Community Network (LCN) and its work regarding a housing survey which may lead to recommendations to Somerset Council for use of revenue support to enable local needs housing schemes in Exmoor villages and to local needs conditions on social housing.

The current work of the ENPA planning team was described and the meeting welcomed the attention to timetables.

Mr Headley and Ms Davies asked for clarification of shortages of refuse bins. Cllr Pugsley agreed to look into this.

Ms Luxton asked if and what can be done regarding alleged asbestos sheets in Wimbleball Lake. The meeting noted that this had been reported in previous years and that SW Water had decided to take no action.

Mr Coates asked that the Councillors look into lack of sufficient advance warning signs for road works, citing Bury Hill south of Louisa Gate as a 'near miss'. Ms Luxton added to this discussion with a request that signage for temporary road works be signed as 'long delays' rather than 'road closed'.

Mr Coates asked that overhanging trees and vegetation encroaching on the highway on Haddon Hill be addressed. Discussion identified landowners as likely to be ENPA, the Fairfield Estate and Bernard Drew. It was AGREED that letters asking for action be sent to them.

Ms Davies asked that a letter be sent to Exmoor Farmers regarding trees overhanging the highway near Trotts Lane.

ACTION: CLERK

648. HIGHWAYS

Hedge cutting back is needed between Renford Knap and the show field.

Drains between Rock House and Trotts Lane need to be cleared.

Road width narrowing due to vegetation overgrowth at Louisa gate has been repeatedly reported but no action has been taken.

Potholes on Sanctuary Lane are in line with car tyres.

ACTION: CLERK to report all the above.

649. DATE TIME AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 3rd Decem ber 2025 at 730pm at Brompton Regis Village.
The meeting closed at 9pm.

Signed as a correct record:

Name: Date: