

MINUTES OF THE BROMPTON REGIS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD AT BROMPTON REGIS VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 7th October 2026

The meeting opened at 735 pm

746. PRESENT: Mr J Andrews, Mr D Cherry, Mr S Coates, Ms T Davies, Ms L Luxton, Mr M Headley.

Also present: Cllr FM Nicholson (from 740pm), Parish Council Clerk, Ms S Buchanan.

747. APOLOGIES: Mr L Ringrose, Mr M Arnold and Cllr Pugsley (other commitments).

748. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS RELEVANT TO THIS MEETING

None.

749. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS AND MEETING MANAGEMENT

The Chairman advised that another scam around his email address appeared to have occurred and advised members to be cautious of unexpected/odd emails purporting to be from him.

750. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS BRPC MEETING, HELD ON 2nd SEPTEMBER 2026

These having been circulated and amended prior to the meeting, Ms Davies proposed and Mr Cherry Luxton seconded their approval and this was unanimously **AGREED** and the minutes were signed as a correct record.

751. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

751.1 Village hall car park (minute 715.4): Clerk to action securing further quotes for works.

751.2 VAT reclaim (minute 742.4): The Clerk advised that the VAT reclaim of £228.21 had been credited to the BRPC account.

752. PLANNING

752.1 Application EXM/26/221/FULL Stagshead Farm, TA22 9JJ, proposed erection of stable building.

The Chairman outlined the proposal and invited comments. After discussion it was unanimously **AGREED** to support the application as an appropriate use of the property.

752.2 Land at Gupworthy (minute 740.2). The Clerk advised that residents' concerns had been reported to the ENPA and a case notice has been provided by the ENPA.

753. COUNCILLORS UPDATES

Cllr Nicholson updated the meeting as follows.

- Car parking charges have not been resolved
- Budget cuts are likely after the next election (May 2027)
- Steps to devolve services are likely where this is possible
- National funds have been allocated to special needs and disability plans in the education service
- The PC precept will be defined prior to the Somerset Council budget setting process
- The Exmoor LCN AGM had elected Cllr Pugsley and Mr Ellicott as Chair and Vice Chair
- The Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner has identified a need for focus on rural areas
- Emergency planning systems have highlighted the potential of moorland and grass fires, including issues of concern where fire breaks and access roads to moorland have not been maintained
- Community Service schemes are seeking meaningful projects (this item to be an agenda item at the next BRPC meeting).

The Chairman asked if budget cuts could reduce highways works and Cllr Nicholson advised that this is unknown but possible.

754. CORRESPONDENCE/ MEETINGS

754.1 The George Inn, Asset of Community Value (minute: 741.2). The Chairman advised that Somerset Council clarified the status and meaning of the registration as follows: "If the new owner, having purchased the property as a going concern, later decides to sell it Somerset Council should be advised of the proposed disposal. If the sale is also as a going concern, it would be an exempt disposal. However, if the disposal is not exempt, it would be a relevant disposal under the legislation and would trigger the six-week interim moratorium period. The BRPC would be notified of such a moratorium.

Mr Cherry advised the meeting that it appears that the sales advertising information has been updated.

754.2 Information and advice coffee mornings. The Clerk advised that a number of advisory services have offered to provide free sessions in the hall. After discussion with the Chairman the Clerk has arranged the following:

- 3rd March 2027 Home energy and water advice services (with possible input from fire safety)
- 30th March 2027 Road safety for older drivers.

Both will be advertised in the new year.

The cost to the BRPC is the hall booking fees.
The events were noted and payment of hall fees **AGREED**.

754.3 Ramblers Association correspondence regarding historic and more recent evidence of rights of way not now shown on the definitive map. The Clerk having circulated email correspondence and maps provided by the Association regarding a number of routes in the parish the Chairman invited comment. The meeting noted that some routes may have been superceded by diversions. It was **AGREED** to note the contents of the correspondence pending any further information about any of the highlighted routes.

754.4 ENPA consultation on a proposal for new signage for access land and rights of way. The Clerk having circulated information prior to the meeting the Chairman invited comment. The meeting discussed the proposal, which was welcomed, and **AGREED** that the Clerk would submit the following comments:

- reduce the length of information on the sign (shorten sentences, include a QR code for further information)
- the proposed signs would usefully be placed on ENPA rights of way furniture and access lands
- use paid for social media to increase impact of the information.

ACTION: CLERK

754.5 ENPA follow up meeting re anti social behaviours at Bessom Bridge (minute 731.3). The Clerk advised that a date is being sought for this despite a relatively quiet summer, caused in large part by the very low levels of water in Wembleball.

754.6 Sportiva events (minute 741. 3). The Clerk having circulated emails regarding the events in August the meeting discussed the impact of the events on the area. Concerns were raised that Sportiva had not addressed suggestions made by the parish council and had not accepted an invitation to meet with the BRPC or provide information to properties on the route. Particular concerns had been raised about timed events on parish roads and litter.

Mr Andrews suggested that if events run in 2027 the parish should request better organisation for participants and residents in order to increase the safety of all, controlling the flow of participants in recognition of the nature of the road network and usage.

Cllr Nicholson asked the Clerk to forward to her email correspondence and advised that she would seek clarity from the Highways Authority as to regulations regarding timed events.

The Chairman will raise with the ENPA the issues which affected Brompton Regis during the events.

755. FINANCE

755.1 Pensions Regulator: re-enrolment duties. The Clerk advised that these will be completed later this month in line with employer requirements. It was noted that the Clerk has been invited and has not accepted membership of a BRPC pension scheme.

755.2 Budget and expenditure to date. This information was noted having been circulated prior to the meeting. The Chairman reminded the meeting that budget pressures on Somerset Council may in turn put pressure on the parish council budget.

756. HIGHWAYS

756.1 Grit bins. Mr Andrews has addressed the problems of solid supplies at Woolcotts Steep and Mill Cross. Mr Cowling has replaced the bin at Bessom Bridge. The meeting thanked Mr Andrews and Mr Cowling for their work on behalf of the parish.

756.2 Drainage Ridge Cottage area (minute 743.2). The Chairman reminded the meeting of ongoing concerns and outlined the actions taken by the Highways Authority to address these including:

- site visits and meeting residents
- assessment of highways drainage assets, which are judged to be functioning appropriately following works undertaken
- assessment of drainage arrangements which are outside the Highways Authority control and responsibility.

756.3 Other highways matters

The meeting noted with thanks the speedy replacement of the bollard at Roborough Gate and the installation of new signage indicating that the road from Wimbleball to Brompton Regis village is unsuitable for HGVs.

The Clerk advised that she is in contact with the Traffic management team regarding HGV signage on Swansea Lane.

757. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

- Millennium Green grant request
- Community Service projects.

758. DATE TIME AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 4th November 2026 in Brompton Regis Village Hall, starting at 730pm.

The meeting closed at 830 pm.

Signed as a correct record:

Name: Date: