

BIGBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held in the Memorial Hall, St Ann's Chapel on Wednesday 14th DECEMBER 2011 at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Cllr S Watts (Chairman), Cllrs T Boys, B Carson, J Grace and A Klidjian. 4 residents also attended.

1.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE none

2.0 MINUTES OF NOVEMBER PARISH COUNCIL MEETING were signed by the Chairman after agreeing to an amendment to November's Minute 2.0 that the opening words of the new Chairman should be clearly stated viz. The new Chairman thanked the Councillors for his nomination. Cllr Watts stated that it was a time of change with four fairly new Councillors, 2 vacancies, an increasing inclination to devolve power locally from central government and a need to collaborate with neighbouring councils on areas of common interest. Only one Councillor and the Clerk have any experience of serving a Parish Council. He said he would like the Parish Council to attain Quality Parish Council status eventually but this would require personal training and development for all concerned and would take time. This topic would be placed on the Agenda for the December meeting.

It was agreed that the Chairman should have the power of veto over the minutes.

3.0 MATTERS ARISING

3.0 A discussion took place about format of report of Parish Council meetings in Bigbury News and it was agreed that the inclusion of the words "Notes of the meeting. Actual minutes can be inspected on the Bigbury Community Website or on the notice-boards" was a good compromise.

Action: Clerk

3.1 Cllr Watts reported that he had discussed the question of a better exit from the Easton road with the Neighbourhood Highway Officer (DCC) N. Colton and had suggested SLOW signs on the approaches to the Easton turning instead of mirrors (which are not endorsed by DCC). The clerk had been informed and a formal request had been submitted for the slow signs.

3.2 Notice boards: a written quotation had been received from a second contractor and it had been agreed by the councillors to ask him to replace the two wall-mounted notice boards and for the first contractor to replace the free-standing board at Bigbury on Sea. The order had been placed accordingly. However, the first contractor explained that his quotation was for all three boards and declined the work.

3.3 Parish Lengthsman: DCC had responded that the number of Parish Lengthsmen had been cut from six to the equivalent of two and a half which has meant a reduction in the number of programmed visits. However, should there be specific problems within the parish, if DCC are informed, arrangements will be made to alleviate the problem..

3.4 Former Chairman: a letter of appreciation had been sent to Mr Terry Edgcombe thanking him for all his hard work over 38 years serving on the Parish Council.

3.5 CPRE Planning guidance pamphlet: Clerk had asked for 7 extra copies and had been informed that they are going to have a reprint. She had since telephoned again and has confirmed the request in writing.

Action: Clerk

3.6 New Councillors: Notices had been displayed requesting applications for two new Councillors but nobody has yet come forward.

3.7 Cllr Grace had contacted BT regarding the condition of the phone boxes in the parish. BT had informed her that they are scheduled for repainting between May to October 2012.

3.8 Cllr Watts reported that the Salcombe Cluster meeting of Town and Parish Councils which he had attended with Cllr Carson had been a disappointment but he would continue to attend and monitor any further meetings.

4.0 AFFORDABLE HOMES

4.0 Cllr Klidjian reported that 500 voting slips had been printed and that the three local shops had each got a box in which the slips may be deposited. Cllr Klidjian will collect the slips on 15th January. He hopes that the result may be declared at the February Parish Council meeting.

5.0 OPEN SESSION

5.0 A Bigbury on Sea resident complained about hedges overhanging the roads, mentioning in particular the properties down the lower end of Folly Hill. Cllr Klidjian suggested that each Councillor checks on properties around them. Resulting from this, letters would be sent to owners of offending properties giving a date by which to cut back the overhanging growth, failing which, a "name and shame" in the Bigbury News might be considered. It was also reported that traffic restrictions down Folly Hill are not enough as cars are parking in such a way as to cause motorists danger in passing them. It was proposed by Cllr Klidjian, seconded by Cllr Grace, and agreed that DCC be requested to mark both sides of Folly Hill with double yellow lines.

Action: Clerk

5.1 The same resident commented on the slight rise in the current year's precept whereas other Parish Councils had not increased theirs. It was pointed out that the increase of £150 had been less than the previous 3 year increases.

5.2 He also asked if the new High Speed Broadband will be coming to the Bigbury area. It was agreed to ask Cllr Mumford to clarify this point or provide a relevant contact address.

Action: Clerk

6.0 PLANNING

6.0 Mr. C Carson: Bigbury Court Farmhouse, Bigbury: for the conversion of a building to house a biomass boiler. D Cllr Carson declared an interest. Councillors had no objection to the application.

6.1 Mr D Beal: erection of house in garden of Tamarisk. It was noted that this re-application was basically the same as the previous one with some extremely slight amendments. It was agreed that the Parish Council should lodge an objection on the same grounds as those for the previous application. It was pointed out that residents should be aware that any letters sent to SHDC on the previous application, would not be considered. Therefore, if they wished to comment on this application, they should treat it as a fresh one and write in again. Cllr Grace said she would inform the residents who would be mainly affected by the proposal. **Action: Cllr Grace**

6.2 Beachdown Bungalows, Challaborough: Cllr Grace reported that she had learnt that the application had been sent to Thurlestone and the Clerk there had somehow submitted a "No Objection" return . It was reported that SHDC Planning are therefore going to re-advertise the application.

6.3 High View, Warren Rd, BoS: Cllr Grace reported that she would like to represent the Parish Council at the site meeting to be held on 19th December.

7.0 FINANCIAL

It was proposed by Cllr Grace, seconded by Cllr Watts and agreed that the following cheques be drawn:-

- a) B Cole: hire of skip Bigbury Village and Challaborough .
- b) Clerk: quarterly fee plus expenses
- c) Wake at Royal Oak
- d) A Klidjian: printing of voting slips
- e) Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal: donation
- f) WRVS: donation
- g) S.Hams CVS: subscription

7.1 Discussion of precept: it was agreed to hold a special meeting to discuss this in January

7.2 Permission was given to the Clerk to draw a cheque to SHDC for repairs to playground equipment should the invoice come in before meeting in January.

7.3 The Clerk reported that she knew that Bigbury News would very much like to have its own printer but would need help with the funding. It was agreed that the Parish Council would be sympathetic

to the matter of a donation if a cost estimate could be provided as a good printer could be a useful community resource. Cllr. Grace meanwhile will discuss the requirement with the Bigbury News editor.

Action Cllr Grace

- 7.4 Cllr Watts asked for clarification on two points from the Cashflow Forecast which had been circulated prior to setting the precept. a) a £150 donation to Hope Cove Lifeboat had appeared twice on the Forecast and b) no claim for £1531 for the defibrillator from C Cllr Mumford's Locality Fund had been listed.

Action: Clerk

8 CORRESPONDENCE

8.0 In Touch magazine – circulation

8.1 Village Green – circulation

8.2 Winter Travelling – circulation

8.3 Countryside Voice – circulation

8.4 Minutes of SHDC Executive Meeting of 9th December – circulation

8.5 Cllrs Watts and Grace queried whether they had received the original of a letter concerning the siting of wind turbines in the AONB which invited all Parish Councils to object as a matter of principle. It was agreed to formally reply stating Bigbury PC's objection to large wind turbines within the AONB.

Action: Clerk

9 H.M. the QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE

Cllr Grace reported that she had informed the Memorial Hall Committee Chairman, Charles Harrington, that she would be the Parish Council's representative on discussions to be held on the celebration in June. Mr Harrington had asked her for any suggestions of people who might serve on such a committee. As a result, some names had been put forward and Cllr Grace will be contacting them shortly. There is already a suggestion for lighting of the beacon at Bigbury on Sea (with an accompanying party), as part of an organised lighting of beacons throughout the country on the 4th June 2012.

- 10 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT . Cllr Carson reported that the decision to go ahead with the Sherford development had been passed at SHDC by 15 votes to 7 giving approval for 5,000 homes. During the first phase, it is anticipated that there will be 500 affordable homes. The proposal includes a new secondary school 3 new primary schools, library, doctor's surgery etc. Cllr Carson also reported that Tor Homes are now in the final stage of becoming Devon and Cornwall Housing. With quite a lot of SHDC business being shared with West Devon, SHDC have managed to save over £1 million with the everyday shared services. DCC have now taken out a 20 year lease on Follaton House.

11 QUALITY PARISH COUNCILS

The Chairman stated that the Parish Council could not become a Quality Parish Council overnight: this should be a mid to long-term goal and he proposed a formal motion that the Parish Council should strive to attain Quality Council status in due course. This was seconded by Cllr Grace and agreed unanimously.

Cllr Carson reported that one third of the Parish Councillors have to have been actually elected to the Parish Council as one qualifying factor but Cllr Watts questioned the accuracy of this statement based on information from government websites.

- 12 SNOW WARDEN Cllr Watts reported that he has now undergone his training to be the Parish Snow Warden and has recruited 6 or so volunteers from around the Parish to help out in the event of a heavy snowfall. He will be asking in the next Bigbury News for some more volunteers. Some of the Parish Council's supply of free salt has now been delivered in 25kg bags to known problem areas.

13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

13.0 Cllr Grace reported that the new footpath from Ringmore to St Ann's Chapel has been ploughed up again and also the entrance to the footpath at the National Trust car park (formerly Cundy Estate land) between St Ann's Chapel and Bigbury has been churned up and is a quagmire. The footpath past the fishponds to Challaborough is also in a very bad state. Cllr Carson said he will contact the farmer concerned.

Action: Cllr Carson

13.1 Cllr Grace reported that some residents had reported to her that they are unhappy that the private car park towards the lower end of Folly Hill appeared to be open for the majority of the time and said that her understanding was that permission was only granted for 28 days opening. Councillors said that the car park was essential for encouraging visitors by alleviating a lot of parking problems in fine weather. The complaints were noted but it was decided no further action be taken.

13.2 It was noted that the skip at Bigbury Village Green had resulted in traffic jams caused by off-loading rubbish from vehicles to the skip. It was agreed to seek another site and Cllr Carson agreed to contact Mr Cullen with a view to using the farmyard opposite Bigbury Court Close.

Action: Cllr Carson

14.0 DATE OF NEXT MEETING Wednesday 11h JANUARY at 7.30 p.m .
Meeting closed 9.45 pm