

BIGBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Bigbury Parish Council held in the Memorial Hall, St Ann's Chapel on WEDNESDAY 8TH FEBRUARY 2012 at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Cllr S. Watts (Chairman), Cllrs B Carson, J Grace, A. Klidjian and T. Boys. 9 residents also attended.

The Clerk reported that nobody had put themselves forward for consideration for co-option as a Parish Councillor to date. The notices which are on the 3 parish boards will continue to be displayed with no reply date specified.

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**; none

2 **MINUTES OF JANUARY** special (precept) meeting. Cllr Carson requested deletion of the section in Minute 12 relating to one-third having to be elected councillors for Quality Parish Council Status. The minutes were then approved and signed by the Chairman

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman.

3 **MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM**:

- (a) NALC Guide to Neighbourhood Planning – one copy received
- (b) Notice boards: work on new boards was due to be started this month
- (c) At the open lunchtime at the Pickwick, John Steven had apologised to the Clerk explaining that her email to him regarding the scheduled meeting at Bigbury on Sea had not been forwarded to him by his staff.
- (d) Parish Lengthsman: the Clerk had seen two men in the Lengthsman's van at the top of Lincombe Lane. She had asked them to advise her, in future, of the next visit in order to be able to request work on problem areas. Councillors agreed it to be a good idea to inform the Clerk prior to the autumn visit of any areas they felt needed attention so that a list could be ready in time for their next visit. Cllr Watts gave notice that the surface water drains and gullies in Duke's Mill needed regular clearing of silt and gravel to prevent flooding and consequent road hazards, especially in freezing conditions.
- (e) Wind Turbines: following the Parish Council's submission to SHDC Planning Dept regarding proposed wind turbines, SHDC had written to advise the proposal for Chillington will be discussed at the Development Management Committee on 15th February.
- (f) CPRE: further copies of the Guide on how to respond to planning applications had been received and were being handed to Councillors
- (g) Faster Broadband: no reply had been received to date from C.Cllr Mumford but the Community Council of Devon is working with DCC on the Connecting Devon & Somerset Project to ensure that all communities in Devon received the best possible broadband service. Cllr Watts stated that a request for details about parishioners broadband usage and views on shortcomings had been posted on the parish website at www.bigburycommunity.co.uk
- (h) Cllr Watts reported that a lot of the grit bags which he had put out have disappeared and he will replace them according to need.
- (i) Footpaths: Mr J Tucker (from the floor) reported that had had been assured that the problem is now under control but he considered that the problem was that people do not keep to the designated route. The Chairman asked him if he could do all that is possible to keep the footpaths accessible.

4 **AFFORDABLE HOUSING**.

Cllr Klidjian reported that 170 forms had been returned indicating that the most favoured site was for the Hingston Farm field adjacent to the Playing Field. The second more popular site was for Mr Davies' site between his farm and Hilltop with the 3rd one being Holwell Farm field. 25 returns indicated non-approval of affordable housing.

Cllr Grace asked Cllr Carson if he felt that it would be better to pursue the top two favoured sites at the same time. All Councillors indicated they are in favour of pursuing the Hingston Farm site but it was noted that circumstances beyond the Council's control might make it necessary to go to the second favoured site.

It was agreed that a letter be sent to Debbie Holloway informing her of the Parish Council's decision and, similarly, that letters be sent to inform and thank all the landowners who had offered land for consideration. Cllr Carson reported on various other Affordable Home projects currently under way.

Action: Clerk

5 **OPEN SESSION**

5.0: Mr Vanstone asked for the Parish Councillors' permission to use the Playing Field for the Fun Run on 23rd June. Councillors had no objection.

5.1 A resident stated that he was disappointed that not one person who would need an affordable home had attended a Parish Council meeting since the initial public meeting about the subject and asked if there really is a need in the light of such a disappointing non-attendance.

5.2 A resident reported that there is a roof tile missing from the bus shelter at Bigbury on Sea. She also reported that the Cleveland Drive-Folly Hill footpath is really in a bad state. The Clerk stated that she had reported the matter to the Parish Footpath Warden who had inspected the path, but she would ask him to make another inspection.

Action: Clerk

5.3 Cllr Grace asked if there was any progress on the request for double yellow lines in Folly Hill (see 10.1, below). It was reported that parking prior to the small lay-by parking area was extremely bad particularly at weekends.

Action: Clerk

6 **PLANNING**

6.0 It was reported that a site meeting had been held at Avonmouth, Folly Hill. As a result, result, councillors had submitted a recommendation for refusal of the application.

6.1 An email had been received from Mr J Yeoman (Chairman of Malborough Parish Council) in which he expressed his Council's concerns over decisions being made by SHDC which have resulted in the loss of 2 parish Councillors in Malborough and 4 Councillors in their neighbouring parish. Malborough Parish Council is calling for the ability of Parish Councils to take the views of the Parish and address the Development Management meetings where ward members declare an interest or take a view against the Parish. He asked if any other Parish Council would like to offer support to Malborough on this matter. It was agreed that this Parish Council would support Malborough Parish Council's view and would be advised accordingly.

Action: Clerk

6.2 Cllr Grace pointed out that Cllr Carson could take a different view as a District Councillor from the view of Bigbury Parish Council. She quoted the application for Tamarisk where there had been several letters of objection from residents and that the Parish Council had submitted a firm objection to the application but it was apparent that finally, D.Cllr Carson had voted in favour of the application. As this was not the first time this had happened, Cllr Grace asked Cllr Carson to explain the procedure in such cases. Cllr Carson explained that in the case of Tamarisk, he had phoned the Parish Council Chairman on the matter and as a result had voted in favour. Cllr Watts explained that the Planning Officer had presented items under planning law and as a result, felt it had to be passed.

6.3 Notification had been received that an appeal has been submitted for Watersmeet, Ringmore Drive, Bigbury on Sea.

7 **FINANCIAL**

Cllr Watts stated he felt that it would be a good idea to put into Bigbury News a summary of how the precept is spent each year, listing various headings such as environment, administration costs etc. Councillors supported the idea.

Action: Chairman & Clerk

8 **CORRESPONDENCE**

- 8.1 SHDC Tim Pollard had emailed stating that whilst inspecting the play area at the Playing Field, he had informally inspected the goal posts and had noted that the hooks for hanging the nets were not legal under UEFA rules. It was agreed not to take any action but to send a letter to Mr Pollard thanking him for his email. **Action:** Clerk
- 8.2 For circulation: In Touch magazine; S Hams Society Bulletin; Senior Council for Devon newsletter; DALC Newsletter Jan/Feb; CPRE Annual Report; Ivybridge & District Asscn. Of Local Councils – minutes of January meeting; SHDC news round up of S Devon AONB
- 8.3 DCC Chairman had invited the Parish Council Chairman and Clerk to a buffet reception on 24th February but unfortunately neither was able to accept due to prior engagements
- 8.4 Cllr T Boys had investigated that proposals for DCC Schools Admission Policy and Transport arrangements and considered there was nothing that will pose any problems for the parish.
- 8.5 SHDC Charterlands Cluster Area meeting on 27 February at Aveton Gifford – both Cllr Watts and Cllr Carson will be attending
- 8.6 An invitation from the Lord-Lieutenant of Devon: invitation to the Chairman to a Special Service at Exeter Cathedral to celebrate the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee on 27th May. Cllr Watts will be unable to attend but Cllr Carson was nominated to attend in his absence. **Action:** Chairman
- 8.7 Road Closure for 4 weeks from 24th February from 19.00 to 06.00 hours on A379 at Ashford.
- 8.8 Road Closure: Wednesday 21st March for one day only from Bullhorn Cross to Chapel Cross and Bullhorn Cross to Ringmore.
- 8.9 Fields in Trust: Scheme to nominate areas to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee. No relevant land in Council’s ownership in Bigbury/
- 8.10 Road signs: various correspondence from DCC-Cllr Watts-Clerk re. Easton road signs (see 10.0, below).

9 **H.M. QUEEN’S DIAMOND JUBILEE**

- 9.0 Cllr Grace reported on a meeting held to discuss arrangements for local celebration of this unique event. On the evening of Monday 4th June, there will be a party around the beacon at Folly Farm with the lighting of the beacon at 10.0 p.m. The committee were grateful for the promise of a donation of £500 from the Parish Council to commemorate the event. A suggestion had been made that a tree should be planted by every child living in the parish. Cllr Grace reported that Mr Tucker had suggested the construction of a viewing platform around the watch tower. Mrs Heath will register the beacon with the central organisation. Food will be provided free but donations will be requested.

10 **ROAD SAFETY**

- 10.0 Easton Junction: Cllr Watts described the perennial danger of the Easton junction and his correspondence with Devon Highways. For the sum of £150, SLOW signs could be painted on either side of the junction as a warning. Cllr Carson proposed that the Parish Council should pay this bill to expedite the sign painting as soon as possible; seconded by Cllr Boys and unanimously agreed . **Action:** Clerk
- 10.1 Double yellow lines in Folly Hill: It was agreed that DCC would be informed that the Parish Council would hold DCC responsible for any serious accidents which occurred in Folly Hill due to bad parking as a result of not having double yellow lines. DCC would also be reminded that it had agreed to replace the T-bar signs at Parker Road and Warren Road, BoS. **Action:** Clerk
- 10.2 Parish Lengthsman. It was agreed that councillors would inform the clerk of any areas needing attention. It was further agreed that DCC would be asked what the exact duties are of the Lengthsmen. It was reported that the ‘buddle hole’ near Whympton Cross needs attention as the road is flooding over in heavy or continuous rain. **Action:** Clerk

11 **STANDING ORDERS**

Cllr Watts reported that DALC have produced a new instruction booklet on Model Standing Orders and suggested the Parish Council should purchase 10 copies at £20 each as an important part of every Parish Councillor's 'toolkit' on correct procedure and legal matters. In many instances, the booklet would be a substitute for more expensive attendance on training courses. It was proposed by Cllr Klidjian, seconded by Cllr Grace and agreed that the Parish Council purchase ten copies.

Action: Clerk

12 **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

D.Cllr Carson reported on a meeting due on 27th February for the Chairmen and councillors of the 4 Charterlands Parish Councils for which he will publish an agenda. Cllr Grace inquired about the proposed cut in grant to Villages in Action by SHDC and Cllr Carson stated that this was scheduled to take place. This was felt by councillors to be a tragedy as the events put on by the organisation were very successful and important for a sustainable community. Cllr Grace asked if other District Councils were withdrawing their grants to Villages in Action. Cllr Carson reported that SHDC had tried to impose parking charges at S.Brent, Timbers and Beesands car parks but had met with opposition. The Government has offered a grant if District Councils do not increase Council Tax.

13 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Cllr Grace reported on a conversation held locally by an operator clearing out drains who had proffered the information that the foul drainage system in Bigbury on Sea cannot cope with any new buildings.

14 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** Wednesday 14th MARCH 2012 at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.