

BIGBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held in the Memorial Hall, St Ann's Chapel on Wednesday 12th SEPTEMBER 2012 at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Cllr S Watts (Chairman), Cllrs B Carson, T Boys, J Grace, A Klidjian, and R Owen. PCSO Stacey Thorn and Cllr William Mumford also attended for part of the meeting.

No resident present.

1.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Cllr J Simes

2.0 MINUTES OF JULY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING were signed as a correct record.

3.0 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

3.1 Min 4.0: Notice boards: Mr Stone has confirmed that the notice boards will be finished within the next 10 days at the original price. Installation was included in the price.

3.2 Min 4.1: Allotments: Cllr Boys reported there had been little further interest despite extensive publicity. A suggestion had been made that half-plots might be of greater interest. Ideally, the project should tie in with Affordable Homes. However, in case funds might become available from elsewhere (e.g. see Item 7.0, below), a letter will be sent to local farmers to enquire if there is about ½ acre which could be made available for a few small allotments. **Action: Cllr Boys**

3.3 Min 4.3: Malcolm Elliott has not responded to the Parish Council letter sent in June.

3.4 Min 4.4: Village only sign at BoS car park has still not been erected **Action: Clerk**

3.5 Min 5.1: Overhanging growth on roads at Bigbury on Sea: now the peak season has ended, further letters will be sent to more residents asking them to cut back any overhanging plants and vegetation covering yellow lines. **Action: Clerk**

3.6 Min 5.2: the dog signs on order have not yet been completed. The clerk had spoken with King Signs who apologised for the delay due to holidays.

3.7 Min 6.2: No justification of the quotation for the planned power wash of the play area's woodwork had been received from SHDC. No action.

3.8 Min 6.3: Mr Edgcombe had been given confirmation from the Chairman regarding work on the Millennium Steps and Viewing Gallery and will be carrying out repairs as soon as possible.

4.0 AFFORDABLE HOMES

Cllr Watts summarised the current situation: a new preferred site has been selected with input from parishioners; a quote for a mandatory archaeological survey is awaited. However, a confusing request had been received recently from Malcolm Elliott that the Parish Council should make a pre-application enquiry for the new favoured site. As the Parish Council had not previously submitted a planning application for the original Cundy Farm site, Cllr Grace asked for an outline of the history of that application. Cllr Carson referred to meetings on an initial site offered by Cundy Farms but the councillors present pointed out that those meetings had not been at the instigation of the Parish Council. Since then the economic climate had deteriorated and developers have become less interested in such ventures despite Village Housing Initiative incentives. Therefore, if the Parish Council were to go ahead, time-consuming archaeological surveys would have to be carried out on the proposed site at the Parish Council's expense. A discussion took place on whether to proceed with the project in current circumstances. PCSO Thorn volunteered the information that Loddiswell Parish Council have recently undergone a similar process and it was agreed that their clerk will be contacted for information.

Action: Clerk

It was agreed that Cllr Carson should persevere in obtaining estimates for the surveys.

Action: Cllr Carson

5.0 POLICE REPORT

PCSO Stacey Thorns reported that two incidents had been reported since she last attended – a mobile phone had been left on the beach and the trolley shed at the Golf Club had been broken into with trolleys stolen. Scrap metal thieves are about the area stealing from farms, private gardens etc. A national car seat belt campaign is underway this month. PCSO Thorns was thanked for her report and she left the meeting.

6.0 OPEN SESSION:

6.1 Cllr Klidjian enquired about a dilapidated empty property in Bigbury-on-Sea and was concerned that in its current state, it could lead to vermin infestation. It was agreed to consult SHDC environmental health for advice. **Action: Cllr Carson**

6.2 An enquiry was made about noncompliance with planning regulations relating to obscure glass in the new development on the Redlands, Ringmore Drive site. It was reported that the owners have been given a time limit by SHDC to adhere to Condition 9 of the grant of planning consent. No further action.

7.0 C.CLLR REPORT

C.Cllr Mumford reported that there is £2,000 per parish in the Locality Fund and that £20,000 exists in an 'Invest in Devon' fund for 4-5 projects. Requests for this funding must be submitted before the end of November. It was agreed to discuss suggestions for submission at the October meeting.

He reported on the Viridor incinerator project which is likely to be developed at Ivybridge. Much discussion on flood alleviation has taken place following summer floods. A further report on faster broadband services is due within a week of this meeting with the contract ready for signing. It is anticipated that broadband access will be significantly improved for 90% of Devon. Cllr Watts stated he had added a recent helpful summary of the South Hams broadband situation from Devon Renaissance to the Bigbury community website. Cllr Mumford was thanked for his report and he left the meeting.

8.0 FINANCIAL

8.1 Cheques were drawn and signed by Cllr Grace and Cllr Klidjian (all amounts incl.VAT) Audit Commission fee £162; Kingston Parish Council – share of councillors' training session £76; Viking – office stationery £60.50; Clerk – quarterly fee and expenses £374.10; David Gay – reprint of Walk on the Wildside (P3 money) £70; South Hams Containers – skip for Bigbury Village and Challaborough £547.06. An invoice had been received from SHDC but as it was in excess of the quotation, the cheque would not be signed until clarification has been received about the difference.

8.2 Having declared an interest, Cllr Boys reported on the dissolution of Modbury Caring owing to unaffordable running costs. This explained why a donation from Bigbury PC had remained undrawn.

8.3 TAP Fund: Joint applications from more than one parish are required. If Bigbury Parish Council joined in with Aveton Gifford, it would then come under Kingsbridge but if with Kingston and Ringmore it would come under Ivybridge.

8.4 Funding application: Cllr Owen will obtain costs of printers for Bigbury News/ parish use and will forward prices to councillors.

9.0 PLANNING

9.1 Milburga's Oratory: consent had been given by SHDC for all items in the application apart from one oak tree for felling.

9.2 Mr Stuart-Mossop: Avonmouth, Folly Hill, BoS: application for replacement of existing garage/store, workshop with new building for ancillary accommodation, boat/garage store/office/studio: REFUSED with one of the reasons for refusal being "detrimental impact upon the character and appearance of the AONB, Coastal Preservation Area and contrary to Local Dev. Framework.

9.3 Mr Williams: Beachdown Bungalows, Challaborough: redevelopment of phase 2 site with 5 new units. GRANTED.

9.4 Mr D Beal: Tamarisk, Cleveland Drive, BoS: amendments to existing approval. GRANTED

10.0 CORRESPONDENCE

- 10.1 Ivybridge & District Ass of Local Councils: Super Cluster meeting 19th September
- 10.2 DCC: road closure, Parker Road, BoS for Monday 1st October.
- 10.3 DCC on Flooding: the clerk had sent a list of regularly flooded areas in the parish. A further email had been sent regarding the flooding of Bigbury Church on two occasions within as many weeks.
- 10.4 Police & Crime Commissioner Election to be held on 15th November
- 10.5 SHDC Gambling Act 2005 Consultation giving website details
- 10.6 SHDC Recycling Road Show – posters displayed on village notice boards
- 10.7 A letter of thanks had been sent to SHDC for their prompt attention to the Bigbury-on-Sea car park litter over the summer holiday season.

11.0 FOOTPATHS

It was reported that Mr Alan George had resigned as Footpath Warden. Two people had shown an interest in the position and it was agreed to discuss this at the October meeting when Ros Davis from DCC Public Rights of Way Dept will be attending. Mr and Mrs Alan Best had volunteered to check on footpaths they walk and Cllr Watts had volunteered to 'adopt' the Avon Estuary footpath on the Bigbury side of Duke's Mill Creek.

12.0 BEACH MATTERS

- 12.1 Beach Huts: Since the July meeting, councillors had sampled opinion and received many comments from residents and holidaymakers regarding the suggestion from Mr John Steven and Mr Mike Smith for beach huts, together with a boardwalk and refreshment stall on Sedgewell Sands. There had been overwhelming opposition to the idea. Mr Steven would be advised of the result. **Action: Clerk**
- 12.2 Blue Flag: Cllr Carson said he would like to apply for a Blue Flag for 2013. However, it was pointed out that the Blue Flag system is extremely bureaucratic and expensive, whilst being primarily of commercial benefit with little to offer residents. It was felt that Bigbury on Sea receives enough visitors without the flag. Agreed - no action.
- 12.3 Cllr Watts reported that Robin Toogood (AONB Manager) had suggested that the Parish Council might consider setting up a Beach Management Committee but councillors vetoed the idea. Agreed - no action.

- 13.0 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT : Cllr Carson reported on a consultation booklet regarding possible changes in Council Tax benefits following a reduction in a grant the District Council receives from Government. Under the scheme, pensioners' Council Tax benefits cannot be reduced.
Electoral Reform is underway regarding SHDC councillors' constituencies.
A parish council 'Cluster' Meeting for Charterlands ward will be held in Kingston on 16th October.

14.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 14.1 Councillors Simes and Owen had signed up for the New Councillor Training Session to be held in January 2013 meaning that all serving Councillors then will have attended such training.
- 14.2 Cllr Carson reported there used to be a directional sign at Pond Green, Bigbury Village for the church. Agreed to request sign at Pond Green with additional signs at Bowls Cross and St Ann's Chapel. **Action: Clerk**
- 14.3 Cllr Grace reported on the success of getting the phone boxes in the parish repainted.
- 14.4 The Clerk reported that the phone box in Marine Drive at BoS was barely visible through the overgrowth of the car park bank. The bank needed cutting back and also where it joined the road surface it should be cut back to expose the yellow lines. **Action: Cllr Carson**

- 15.0 DATE OF NEXT MEETING Wednesday 10th OCTOBER at 7.30 p.m.

Meeting closed 9.50 pm